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## Attorney convicted of aiding Wilson arms-smuggling deal

Houston (AP) — A California attorney faces 17 years in prison and fines of \$145,000 for conspiring with former CIA agent Edwin Wilson to smuggle 20 tons of plastic explosives into Libya.

Edward J. Bloom, 74, of Pomona, Calif., was found guilty late Friday by U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling. The judge said Bloom would be sentenced later.

Bloom was accused of financing the charter of a DC-8 aircraft to transport the cargo and of supervising the loading of explosives onto the plane at Houston Intercontinental Airport in October, 1977.

Government witnesses testified at Wilson's trial in January that the shipment, disguised as an oil drilling

mud additive, was stored in a warehouse at the airport before being loaded onto the plane.

Wilson, 54, who claimed the CIA gave him authority to set up a business front in Libya so he could spy on its government, was convicted in February and sentenced to 17 years in prison and fined \$145,000.

Prosecutors claimed Bloom rode on the plane from Houston to Lisbon, Portugal, where the aircraft was refueled, and then flew to Tripoli.

Bloom told Judge Sterling that he has never been an employee or an associate of Wilson and that he only became involved because he was an attorney for California explosives manufacturer Jerome S. Brower.